Dear Santa,

We are from Waveland and our home was at:

[redacted] Washington Street, Waveland, MS 39576

We are now living at:

Address: [redacted] Washington Street Waveland, MS 39576

City Waveland State MS Zipcode 39576

Phone No. [redacted]

Our family consists of:

Ricky [redacted], Sr. Harry [redacted] - deceased

Allison [redacted] (victim of Katrina)

Ricky [redacted], Jr. @ 93 years of age

Our Katrina experience was:

Allison + Ricky, Jr. evacuated to a friend's house in Florida on 8/28/05
Ricky, Sr. stayed behind because Allison's grandfather
Harry LeBlanc did not want to leave. He had been
thru past hurricanes - 1939, 1947, Betsy + Camille, and
our home was not damaged or flooded, so at 93
he was sure he would be safe enough to stay. →

Write something special that you would like Santa to bring you or your family:

Anything that would make our son Ricky Jr.'s senior year at
Bay High special. He lost his letterman jacket, all of his soccer +
baseball trophies + medals and his yearbooks, but most of all his
best friend + idol - Grandpa Harry. Ironically he will graduate on
May 18, 2006 - Grandpa Harry's 94th birthday. Ricky, Sr + I only

Please use back or another sheet of paper, if you want to write more. We want to hear your story.

wish for good health and the ability to overcome our misfortune.

Return by November 30th to:

Our son turned 18 on 10-1-05 and has learned only to quick that

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you have to deal with what God has planned for you. And the only
other thing that would make Christmas special would be for my
husband + I to be able to replace my son's prized possession - his
truck - which realistically + understandably won't be possible.

None of us could imagine what affect Katrina would have on our lives. By 10:00am on 8/29/05 everything that could go wrong did. After checking on our neighbor's house, Ricky Sr. went to pick up Grandpa Harry only to be told by a neighbor that "Mr. Harry had evacuated at the last minute with four other neighbors". He double checked by checking his apartment and saw no sign of Grandpa. Upon returning home, the winds had really begun to increase, so Ricky Sr. watched + listened to the TV and radio until the power went out. He was vigilant in watching the storm from our porch. Still having a nagging feeling that Grandpa Harry would have called before leaving, Ricky, Sr. once again went around the corner to Grandpa's apartment which was empty. Upon returning home for the second time, Ricky, Sr. realized that Katrina was destructive. The winds did not let up, getting stronger by the minute. Then several tornados came and kept on coming. After snapping all but 3 of our 10 trees - the last of which went ~~through~~ thru our roof, the winds and tornados still did not let up. Our pool was the next thing to go followed by our 2 sheds. And only then - the water started coming. Our home was built in the late 30's early 40's, and being on blocks 3 ft. off the ground had never had any water in it. Katrina showed no mercy. She did not stop until the water level reached a foot into our attic. We are 3 miles from the beach and 1/4 mile from Hwy 90!! Needless to say we lost everything in our home + attic, Ricky Sr's 2 work trucks and Ricky, Jr's. truck. And after an 8 week vigilant search for Grandpa Harry with FEMA, Red Cross, Salvation Army and the local + federal officers. We ~~[illegible]~~ learned that God had call Grandpa Harry home. He was found 1/4 mile away from his apartment by a work crew clearing a fence line in some woods - he at the base of a tree + his kitchen chair 7 feet above him in the tree. And I might add that Ricky, Sr. rode out the worst of Katrina in 1 of our 3 remaining trees literally fighting off many, many snakes for a total of 4 1/2 - 5 hours.

— May God Bless you Santa - The [redacted]